

# INSIDE GARDNER

FALL 2018

## Gardner gets its first parklet, mobile park space

The Gardner parklet, an initiative first introduced just a few months ago to the community as some obscure concept, is now a fixture along the sidewalk of 137 E. Shawnee. Parklets, also known as mobile parks or portable mini parks, function as public seating platforms that repurpose or convert parking spaces into a vibrant space for people.

Gardner was one of 129 communities across the nation selected to receive grant funding for such developments as part of the AARP Community Challenge — an initiative designed to support projects that help communities create and enhance physical spaces for people of all ages. Parklets serve this purpose and give pedestrians additional access to safe, public places to congregate.

“It offers people a place to rest in the shade along the city’s sidewalk network within close proximity to City Hall, the public library, churches and schools,” said

Larry Powell, business and economic development director. “We hope it will stimulate impromptu outdoor gatherings between residents and visitors, and help build community.” Powell also said the portable space will be used as an enduring public amenity to support Americans with Disabilities Act seating in other outdoor gathering spaces and at community events.

The Gardner parklet has a distinctive design that incorporates seating and outdoor furniture and will soon include canopies and greenery. The public provided input on all the colors and features through an online survey.

“With the help of our residents, we have taken the first step toward creating civic greens in the heart of the city, as envisioned in the Gardner Main Street Corridor Plan,” Powell said. “We hope to build more in the future.”

### DID YOU KNOW?

San Francisco, California, has been credited with introducing the first parklet and has more than any other city, nearing a total of 60. Parklets have become a growing trend in the United States as well as other countries.

EXCELLIGENCE  
LEARNING CORPORATION

This 646,400 square-foot facility at 17001 Mercury St. will house school supplies, an inbound call center and manufacturing. Equipment installation is taking place. The anticipated completion date is mid to late December 2018.



Enterprise Rent-A-Car is coming to Gardner! Customers can now enjoy fast and easy car rental booking services by visiting 915 E Lincoln Lane. Enterprise plans to open its 1,500 square-foot building in February 2019.



Hampton Inn has moved its proposed opening to late February 2019. Exterior work is completed. Interior work is still in progress, including the installation of furniture and equipment.



## A MESSAGE FROM

# Mayor Steve Shute

### The Season for COMMUNITY

It's an exciting (and, yes, magical) time in Gardner!

As we enter the holiday season after Thanksgiving, we also celebrate the annual tradition of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Lighting at Cornerstone Park. We use this occasion to transition from a season of gratitude to a season of sharing.

I have always felt Gardner's greatest asset is its people. When Gardnerites know there is a genuine need, they will simply pitch in and help their neighbors, on many occasions doing it with their

own money. The biggest barrier to helping more people is threefold: (1) people in need don't know where to go for help, (2) aid agencies often don't have enough money to carry out their mission, and (3) potential volunteers and donors don't know what needs exist in the community.

In the coming months, we will be broadening the mission of the Mayor's Christmas Tree Fund to meet needs throughout the entire community, through the whole year – not just during the holidays. The Christmas Tree Fund, as it currently stands, will continue to remain a vital part of the mission, but the "Angel Fund" will be an even more ambitious effort that will serve as a "clearinghouse" for people with needs to get together with organizations and resources that can help provide assistance. The fund will include project-based, grant awards, and "ad-hoc" support assistance, and will be administered by an all-volunteer board of directors made up of civic and church groups that are invested in the community.

Watch for more information on this initiative as we move into the coming year. Helping out our neighbor through volunteerism is a vital part of commUNITY, and I am personally excited that this program will make it easier to do! Happy Holidays and best wishes in the New Year!

## GARDNER'S HIDDEN GEMS

In the age of Ebay, DealDash and Quibids online bidding sites, live auction houses seem to be a thing of the past. But not for Ron Stricker's Auction Company. This family-owned business has stood the test of time and virtual technology, providing merchandise to auction-goers for nearly 50 years.

Located at 790 N. Center St., Stricker's holds an auction event every first and third Monday at 6 p.m., offering a plethora of items such as china cabinets, dining room sets, cars, pottery, antiques, sports memorabilia and more. "We sell between 600 and 800 items each auction night," Ron Stricker, owner, said. "And, every event is different depending on the items that we acquire from day-to-day."

These two nights a month attract customers throughout the Midwest, including Harviell,

Missouri, which is six-plus hours away. "We have buyers who literally drive twice a month to be a part of our auction. They realize the high-quality products we sell, so the drive is worth it."

*The Pitch* magazine concurs as it recently named Stricker's Auction Company as the No. 1 auction company in Kansas City.

The company continues to gain popularity and is often invited to provide auctioneer services to property owners for estate sales. Stricker's also participates in about 160 benefit auctions a year.

"Auctioneering is not just a family business, but it's our passion — a passion we plan on continuing for many years to come."

For more information, visit the Stricker's website at [www.ronstrickersauction.com](http://www.ronstrickersauction.com), or contact them at 913.856.6890 or [ron.stricker@yahoo.com](mailto:ron.stricker@yahoo.com).

## Governing Body Contacts

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## Upcoming City Council Meetings

- ◆ Monday, December 3 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, December 17 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, January 7 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, January 21 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, February 4 at 7 p.m.
- ◆ Monday, February 18 at 7 p.m.

View more City Council meeting dates at [www.gardnerkansas.gov](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov).



# COOKING SAFETY

Safety in the kitchen is important especially during the holidays when there is a lot of activity and people at home. To ensure you and yours have a safe holiday season, remember these important tips to follow:

- Stay in the kitchen when you are cooking on the stovetop so you can keep an eye on the food.
- Stay in the home when cooking your turkey and check on it frequently.
- Keep children away from the stove. The stove will be hot and kids should stay 3 feet away.
- Make sure kids stay away from hot food and liquids. The steam or splash from vegetables, gravy or coffee could cause serious burns.
- Keep the floor clear so you don't trip over kids, toys, pocketbooks or bags.
- Keep knives out of the reach of children.
- Be sure electric cords from an electric knife, coffee maker, plate warmer or mixer are not dangling off the counter within easy reach of a child.
- Keep matches and utility lighters out of the reach of children — up high in a locked cabinet.
- Never leave children alone in a room with a lit candle.
- Make sure your smoke alarms are working. Test them by pushing the test button.

For more kitchen safety information, contact the Johnson County Fire District #1 at 913.764.7635.



**Another Safety Nugget:** Have activities that keep kids out of the kitchen during this busy time. Involve them in food preparation that can be done outside the kitchen.



## CITIZENS ACADEMY STARTS JANUARY 2019

The City of Gardner will hold its fifth Gardner You! Citizens Academy class starting in January 2019. Gardner You! is a seven-week interactive civic and public information program that focuses on educating residents and business owners about the city's governmental processes.

The class, which will be hosted by department directors and staff, will meet Thursday evenings from 6:30 to 8:00 p.m. at City Hall. Session topics include finance and budget, business and economic development, city programs, volunteerism, and boards and commissions. The academy also involves a tour of city facilities.

The academy is open to Gardner residents and business owners 18 years of age or older. Five of the available 20 slots are reserved for students at Gardner-Edgerton High School. Students must provide a recommendation from a teacher or other faculty member about why they should attend the academy. Slots will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis.

Applications are available at City Hall (120 E. Main St.) or online at [www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardneryou](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardneryou). All completed hard-copy applications must be returned to the Communications Office. There is no fee to attend. Applications will be accepted through Friday, January 11, 2019.

To view the program schedule, visit [www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardneryou](http://www.gardnerkansas.gov/gardneryou). Contact Communications Manager Daneeka Marshall-Oquendo at 913. 856.0912 or [dmarshall-oquendo@gardnerkansas.gov](mailto:dmarshall-oquendo@gardnerkansas.gov) for more information.

## RESCUE YOUR RECYCLING FROM THE LANDFILL



Bagging your recyclables in plastic trash bags can result in all of your recyclables going to the landfill. In addition, plastic bags and wraps are not accepted with your curbside recycling. Ensure that your recycling efforts don't go to waste by following these easy steps:

1. Ditch the bag. Plastic bags and wraps don't go in your curbside recycle bin.
2. Free your recycling. Bagged recycling ends up in the trash. Instead, keep your recycling free in the bin or use a paper grocery sack.
3. Take bags back to the store. Clean bags and wraps can be returned to several area grocery stores for recycling.

Why? Plastic bags and wraps get caught in the machinery at the recycling facility, lower the value of other recyclables, and lead to recyclable materials going to the landfill. Your recycling should be left loose in the bin. Again, plastic grocery bags and certain product wraps can be returned to area grocery stores for recycling. For more information go to [www.jocogov.org/recycling101](http://www.jocogov.org/recycling101).



City of Gardner  
120 E. Main Street  
Gardner, Kansas 66030

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### Upcoming Parks & Recreation Events & Activities

	Date	Registration Deadline	Age/Grade	Costs
<b>Adult/Family Programs</b>				
Santa's Workshop	Dec. 2	N/A	All	Free
Scrapbooking	Dec. 7	Thursday before	Adult	\$5
Mother-Son Wild West Roundup	Dec. 8	Nov. 30	4-12	\$30 per couple/\$15 for each additional son
Breakfast with Santa	Dec. 8	N/A	All	\$5 in advance/\$6 at the door
Mayor's Holiday Home Decorating Contest	Dec. 11 & 12	Dec. 10	All	\$5
Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt	Dec. 20	Dec. 17	2-10	\$3 per child

#### Santa's Workshop

Moms and Dads, bring the whole family to this place full of holiday joy! Children will have the opportunity to visit with Santa and Mrs. Claus and share their Christmas wishes, plus receive a commemorative ornament (while supplies last) and a candy cane. Santa's Workshop will open on December 2, 5:00-6:30 p.m.

#### Breakfast with Santa

Spend a morning with your family at the North Pole on December 8! From 8:00 to 11:00 a.m., attendees will enjoy all-you-can-eat pancakes, sausage links and juice from Chris Cakes at the Johnson County Fairgrounds' Green Building. Kids will have the opportunity to make crafts and get their photo taken with Santa and Mrs. Claus for purchase. Tickets will be pre-sold for \$5 at City Hall until noon on December 7 and will also be available at the door for \$6 (children under the age of one are free). The registration fee does not include the cost of photos.

#### Mayor's Holiday Home Decorating Contest

Think you have the most festive house on the block? The City of Gardner invites residents to participate in the Mayor's Holiday Home Decorating Contest. It's a perfect project for the entire family to enjoy! The contest is open to homes in the Gardner zip code (66030). Winners will be chosen for the Most Creative Display, Most Twinkling Lights and Mayor's Choice. Judging will be on December 11 and 12. On the night of judging, please turn on all your holiday lights by 6:00 p.m. and leave them on until 10:00 p.m. Submit your entry form and \$5.00 fee (per house) by 5:00 p.m. on December 10.

#### Flashlight Candy Cane Hunt

It is rumored that Santa is about to hide hundreds of candy canes around Cornerstone Park! Grab your flashlight and join us on December 20 at 5:30 p.m. as we search for hidden candy canes. Children age 2-10 can participate, and the fee to register is \$3. Register by December 17.